

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). With this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 33, 127 and 128. No new matter is added. Additionally, Applicant adds new claims 144 and 145. Accordingly, claims 1-45, 48-56 and 60-145 are all the claims currently pending in the application. However, claims 1-32 and 60-124 are withdrawn from consideration. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 33-45, 48-56, 127, 128, 131-133 & 136-143 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 33-45, 48-56, 127, 128, 131-133 and 136-143 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Westbury et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,873,963; hereinafter “Westbury”) in view of Savino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,015,167; hereinafter “Savino”) in view of Swan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,304; hereinafter “Swan”) in further view of Boucher et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Publn. No. 2003/0097306; hereinafter “Boucher”).

In contrast to amended independent claim 33, Westbury, Savino, Swan and Boucher, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest and are altogether silent regarding a system for transporting a package from a sender to a receiver by a carrier, the system comprising, *inter alia*, a carrier computer system comprising a processor configured to: (A) *link the object identification data directly with the package identification data*; and (B) *link the event data directly with the package identification data, and store the object identification data in association with the linked package identification data and the event data in association with the linked package identification data*, as recited by claim 33.

A. Processor Linking Object Identification Data Directly With Package Identification Data & Event Data Directly With Package Identification Data

Applicant again submits that the combination of Westbury, Savino, Swan and Boucher does not teach or suggest at least any carrier computer system comprising a *processor* that is

configured to link the object identification data directly with the package identification data and link the event data directly with the package identification data, as recited by claim 33.

In rejecting claim 33, the Examiner correctly concedes that Westbury, Swan and Boucher do not teach or suggest the above features of claim 33. However, the Examiner continues to rely on column 2, lines 4-6, column 3, lines 25-47 and Figures 2 and 5 of Savino to make up for the deficiencies of Westbury, Swan and Boucher. (See pg. 4 of the Office Action) Contrary to the Examiner's general assertions, Applicant submits that Savino does not make up for what Westbury, Swan and Boucher lacks.

In contrast to claim 33, the cited portions and indeed all of Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, at most discloses that a bar code 500 stored in a database 14 is linked with a customer name and address 502, packing slip number 504, a customer purchase order number 506, a box quantity number 508, a part quantity number 510, a customer part number 512, a manufacturer part number 514, and a shipping date 516. (Col. 3, lines 26-47 & FIG. 5 of Savino) In this regard, Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher explains that when the bar code 500 is scanned purchase and shipping information associated with a purchase order can be obtained.

Nowhere in Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, is there any mention, teaching or suggestion relating to any processor of a computer system that is configured to *link* object identification data, identifying an object, *directly* with package identification data and *linking* event data, that is generated as *an object passes through a portal, directly with the package identification data*, as recited by claim 33.

In contrast to claim 33, merely linking a customer name and address 502, packing slip number 504, customer purchase order number 506, box quantity number 508, part quantity number 510, customer part number 512, manufacturer part number 514, and a shipping date 516 generally to a bar code 500 and storing this data in a database as most disclosed by Savino, alone or alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest the features of claim 33. Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher does not teach or suggest the one-to-one relationship of linking the object identification data directly with package identification data and the one-to one relationship of linking the event data directly with the package identification data, as recited by claim 33.

In the *Response to Arguments* section the Examiner relies on a manufacturer part number of Savino as corresponding to the claimed object identification data and a packing slip number of Savino as corresponding to the claimed package identification data. In contrast to the Examiner's, general assertion, nowhere in Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, is there any mention, teaching or suggestion relating to any processor of a computer system that links the manufacturer part number (alleged object identification data) *that is defined by a sender* of a package directly with the packaging slip number (alleged package identification data) as would be required by the recitations of claim 33. Rather, Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, is altogether silent and does not contemplate linking the manufacturer part number directly with a packing slip number. Moreover, a bar code 500 that is linked generally with a customer name and address 502, a packing slip number 504, a customer purchaser order number 506, a box quantity number 508, a part quantity number 510, a customer part number 512, a manufacturer part number 514 and a shipping date 516 as at most disclosed by the cited portion of Savino, alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest that the manufacturing part number is directly linked to a packaging slip number as would be required by claim 33.

Additionally, Savino, alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest any processor that links *any* event data that is *generated as an object*, defined by a sender, *passes through at least one portal directly* with the packaging slip number (alleged package identification data) as would be required by the recitations of claim 33. In contrast to claim 33, Savino, alone or in combination is altogether silent and does not contemplate any processor that links any event data, *that is generated as an object passes through any portal*, directly with a packaging slip number, as would be required by the recitations of claim 33. The combination is simply not arranged as required by the recitations of claim 33.

In the *Response to Arguments* section, the Examiner alleges that the originally-filed application does not disclose that a processor links object identification data directly in a one-to-one relationship with package identification data and links package identification data in a one-to-one relationship directly with event data. (See pg. 19 of the Office Action) Applicant respectfully disagrees. At least paragraph [0034] of the originally-filed specification and FIG. 1 of the originally-filed application describes a non-limiting exemplary embodiment in which the

object identification data is linked directly in a one-to-one relationship with package identification data and package identification data that is linked directly in a one-to-one relationship with event data as shown in the annotated version of FIG. 1 below.

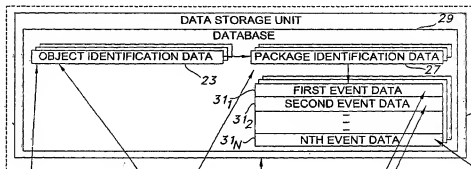


FIG. 1

As shown below in FIG. 5 of Savino, the combination does not teach or suggest that the packing slip number (alleged package identification data) is directly linked to the manufacturer part number (alleged object identification data), as would be required by claim 33. And there certainly is no teaching or suggestion in Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, relating to any event data, generated as an object passes through at least one portal, being linked directly with the packing slip number, as would be required by the recitations of claim 33.

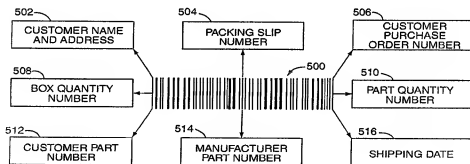


FIG. 5

B. Processor Storing Object Identification Data In Association With Linked Package Identification Data & Event Data in Association With Linked Package Identification Data

Claim 33 also recites that the processor is configured to store the object identification data in association with the linked package identification data and the event data in association

with the linked package identification data. In this regard, Applicant submits that merely storing the purchase and shipping information 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514 and 516 generally in database 14 as at most disclosed by Savino, alone or in combination Westbury, Swan and Boucher, does not teach or suggest the features of claim 33. In contrast to claim 33, Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher is altogether silent and does not contemplate the one-to-one relationship of storing the object data in association *with linked* package identification data that is linked *directly with* the package identification data and the one-to-one relationship of storing event data in association *with linked* package identification data that is linked *directly with* the event data that is generated as an object passes through at least one portal, as recited by claim 33. Moreover, nowhere in Savino, alone or in combination with Westbury, Swan and Boucher, is there any mention, teaching or suggest that any of the purchase and shipping information 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514 and 516 is generated as an object passes through at least one portal as would be required by the recitations of claim 33.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the combination of Savino, Westbury, Swan and Boucher is deficient and does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 33 and its dependent claims 34-45, 48-56 and 136.

Since independent claim 127 contains features that are analogous to, though not necessarily coextensive with, the features recited in independent claim 33, Applicant submits that independent claim 127 and its dependent claims 128, 131-133 and 137 are patentable at least for reasons analogous to those submitted for claim 33.

II. Rejection of Claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 & 135 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 and 135 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Westbury, Savino, Swan, Boucher and Bengston (U.S. Patent Appln. Publ. No. 2003/0009396; hereinafter "Bengston"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, the combination of Westbury, Savino, Swan and Boucher is deficient vis-à-vis independent claims 33 and 127 and Bengston does not make up for the deficiencies of Westbury, Savino, Swan and Boucher and is not cited for such. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 and 135 are patentable at least by virtue of

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their respective dependencies from independent claims 33 and 127. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of dependent claims 125, 126, 129, 130, 134 and 135.

III. New Claims

Applicant herein adds new claims 144 and 145 in order to more fully cover various aspects of Applicant's invention as disclosed in the originally-filed specification. In addition to their respective dependencies from independent claims 33 and 127, claims 144 and 145 should be allowable because the cited references alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the recitations of claims 144 and 145. Support for new claims 144 and 145 may be found at least in paragraph [0045] of the originally-filed specification.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner Zare is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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